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SIMI VALLEY SUNDAY
A weekly edition, focusing on community news in Simi Valley and Moorpark.
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2006
ONE DOLLAR

Soldier stories

A look at the actors in Clint Eastwood's new movie about World War II.

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WEATHER

Mostly cloudy
Highs: 68-73
Lows: 45-50
Air quality: Moderate

For details, see back of Viewpoint

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Simi council election quiet

Thousand Oaks race contentious

Staff Writer

SIMI VALLEY — The run-up to the City Council election in Simi Valley is unusually quiet this year, with the mayor and two incumbents running unopposed. But the situations are quite different in neighboring Thousand Oaks and Moorpark.

In Simi Valley, Mayor Paul Miller, the city's former police chief, is running alone again, as are City Council members Glen Becerra and Michelle Foster.

In Thousand Oaks, on the other hand, a contentious race has developed involving three incumbents and six challengers vying for three seats. The incumbents are Mayor Dennis Gillette and council members Claudia Bill-De La Peña and Andy Fox.

The challengers include former Thousand Oaks Mayor Bob Wilson and Louis Edward Masry, the son of famed attorney Ed Masry, who had also served as the city's mayor and died in December.

The other challengers are Jerry Goldman, a business owner; John Glen DiGuiseppe, a financial consultant; Elaine McKearn, an educator, caretaker and editor; and Janet Wall, a planning commissioner appointed by Bill-De La Peña.

Both Masry and Bill-De La Peña have criticized Gillette and Fox for voting to appoint someone to fill the remaining three years of Ed Masry's term rather than calling a special election after he died.

In her official campaign statement, Bill-De La Peña

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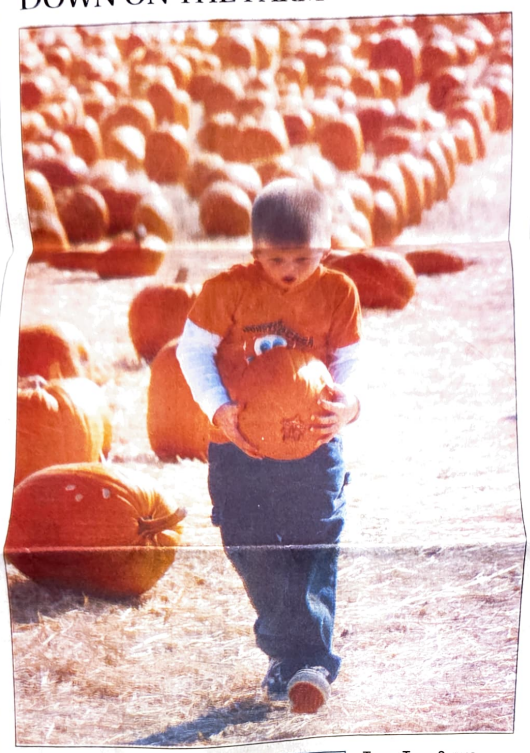
DOWN ON THE FARM



Trevor Terry, 3, runs with his pumpkin to keep up with the older children while visiting Underwood Family Farm in Moorpark. The farm is open during the fall festival from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. A billy goat, left, climbs around the farm. **For more photos, see Page 6.**

Tina Burch
Staff Photographer

Science, religion in discussion

College engages in debate

BY BRAD A. GREENBERG
Staff Writer

The issue kept arising. Whenever Moorpark College professors John Baker and Janice Daurio would talk about science in class, a confrontational hand would inevitably interrupt the lesson.

"Well, what about this? My sacred book says that," Baker recalled.

So anthropologist Baker and philosopher Daurio collaborated to provide the college community with a forum for learning about and discussing the relationship between science and religion. They lined up lectures by 10 faculty members and outside experts. And *they won administrative support for dedicating the 2006-07 academic year as "The Year of Science and Religion."*

"This keeps coming up with students and they assume and argue for a position of conflict between science and region," Daurio said. "We as educators need to point out to students when they have assumed, without noticing a conflict model, they say science or religion."

Religious people, particularly Christians, have long been perceived as threatened by science and, therefore, hostile to its claims. But that assumption is increasingly false.

"When people tell you that Christians are stupid, there are some, but that is not the point," the Rev. Mark Brewer, senior pastor of Bel Air Presbyterian Church, said during a recent sermon titled "How Stupid Are We?"

"The point is that science and Scripture — definitely good science — are in harmony together. Now, this does not intend to be a science book," Brewer said, holding up his Bible. "It does intend to be, where it teaches, not only a spiritual book, a historical book."

Last year brought the strong push by the Discovery Institute and other Christians for so-called "intelligent design," which doesn't disregard evolution but claims life is too complex to occur without a creator.

Recently, two prominent scientists published books sharing their belief in the God above: Owen Gingerich, an astronomer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics penned "God's Universe," and Francis Collins, director of the Human Genome Project, wrote "The Language of God." These scientists, like some others, have found harmony between the book of life and the book of nature.

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YEAR OF SCIENCE AND RELIGION

For more information about Moorpark College's Year of Science and Religion, go to www.moorparkcollege.edu/yearof. Scheduled lecture topics include biological evolution, radiometric dating and, led by the publisher of Skeptics Magazine, the power of belief.

Crow is Pure Stock champ

Simi driver had increasing luck through season

BY TIM HADDOCK
Staff Writer

IRWINDALE — Rick Crow wasn't planning on entering every race in the NASCAR Pure Stock division at Irwindale Speedway. He was only going to do a few, take it easy for a change at the race track.

He was more concerned about coaching his kids' basketball and T-ball teams. He wanted to watch his daughter in

PLEASE SEE **CHAMP / PAGE 4**

Simi Valley's Rick Crow won 11 races and the NASCAR Pure Stock division championship at Irwindale Speedway. He finished the season by winning nine races in a row.

Violence increasing in jails

BY SUE DOYLE
Staff Writer

Violence is mounting inside two Ventura County jails as inmate populations soar, leaving no room for some to sleep except on the floor or in day rooms, authorities said.

With jail facilities pushing beyond capacity, Ventura County Sheriff Bob Brooks is seeking funding to build an addition to one of them, the Todd Road facility. Total build-out is estimated at $80 million and would bring about 800 more beds.

As a temporary solution, the department is considering on-site modular housing to ease the overflow of inmates.

"The level of distress has grown," Brooks said. "We've continued to adapt and put bunks in day rooms and have done things we'd rather not do for the safety of our facilities."

Inmate population in the department's two jails hit a record high Oct. 8 with 1,803 inmates — about 200 more than capacity, according to the department.

Overcrowding in the jail system began about three years ago, when the Ojai Honor Farm closed because the county couldn't afford to staff it. Since then, inmates have been funneled into two jails instead of three, and the population immediately hit maximum capacity, Brooks said.

Meanwhile, as jail space becomes more dense with inmates, tensions are rising. Although the facilities haven't seen the rioting that rocked Pitchess Detention Center in Castaic last year and left one dead, Brooks said there has been a spike in one-on-one fighting among inmates in the two Ventura County jails.

One solution so far has been the early release of nonviolent offenders, a strategy that began in 2004. About 7,150 inmates, including drunk drivers, drug dealers and those who haven't paid child support, have seen five days shaved off their sentences to create more bed space.

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